



The CITY of SALINE

Office of the Mayor

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April 29, 2014

The Honorable Gretchen Driskell
State Representative
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Representative Driskell:

As Mayor of the City of Saline, I feel compelled to urge your opposition to HB 5379 and SB 0832. The legislation would abolish much-needed local funding under Act 88 for agricultural and economic development in Michigan counties.

As you know, recent years have been very difficult for the State of Michigan, and for the Southeastern portion of our state, in particular. Our region lost over 18,000 jobs, many of which were high paying manufacturing jobs. With the assistance of Washtenaw County's economic programs, we have been able to replace many of those jobs and increase trade in the products of Michigan. The full impact on the Saline community has yet to be realized; however, that does not diminish the fact that these initiatives are absolutely integral to our short- and long-term success.

The broad efforts to market our community and attract investment and new business, as well as the re-use of vacant manufacturing buildings would not have been possible without the assistance of Washtenaw County's economic development programs. As you are certainly aware, these programs are funded in large part through Act 88, which is a local mechanism for generating support for agriculture and economic development. HB 5379 and SB 0832 would end local control and reduce opportunities for agricultural and economic development. Therefore, I urge you to oppose these bills and permit local governments such as Washtenaw County to continue to promote our agricultural and industrial advantages and attract new investment to our region.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Marl
Mayor
City of Saline



City of Ypsilanti
Office of the Mayor

April 21, 2014

Dear Michigan State Legislators,

I urge you to oppose HB 5379 and SB 0832 which would abolish local funding under Act 88 for agricultural and economic development in Michigan counties.

The city of Ypsilanti has experienced a significant economic downturn during the recent recession and our unemployment rate remains higher than surrounding communities. However, with the assistance Washtenaw County's economic programs, Ypsilanti has increased job opportunities and revitalized downtown. For example, with the help of Act 88 funding, the SPARK East Business Incubator has created new business start ups and expansions in downtown Ypsilanti. In addition to the jobs created in these new ventures, many of these incubator companies have located in vacant buildings and brought up property values.

The re-use of vacant buildings and attraction of new companies and investment would not have been possible without the assistance of Washtenaw County's economic development programs through Act 88. HB 5379 and SB 0832 would end local control and reduce opportunities for agricultural and economic development. I therefore urge you to oppose these bills and permit local governments such as Washtenaw County to continue to promote our agricultural and industrial advantages and attract new investment to our region.

Sincerely,

Paul T. Schreiber
Mayor, City of Ypsilanti
1 S. Huron
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
734-277-5446



1124 Anderson House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone 517-373-1771
Fax 517-373-5797

David E. Rutledge
Democratic Floor Leader
Michigan House of Representatives
District 54

Committee Membership
Transportation and Infrastructure
davidrutledge@house.mi.gov

May 1, 2014

RECEIVED

MAY 1 2014

Pittsfield Charter Township

The Honorable Mandy Grewal, Ph.D.
Supervisor, Pittsfield Charter Township
6201 West Michigan Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Dear Supervisor Grewal:

Thank you for your recent communication regarding legislation that would discontinue funding to counties through Act 88, which supports agricultural and economic development programs statewide.

Please know that I share your concerns about House Bill 5379 and Senate Bill 832, and the potential for this legislation to significantly hinder economic development and agricultural programs in Washtenaw County and statewide. As I am sure you agree, Ann Arbor SPARK is an extraordinary example of the ways that economic development can work collaboratively and creatively to encourage and cultivate growth, and restricting that funding could do incalculable harm to those efforts, and to Washtenaw County residents as a result.

My hope is that my fellow legislators will hear the many voices who have weighed in on this issue, and oppose the legislation. However, I will continue to follow this issue closely as the budget discussions continue. Please share any further thoughts you have as the process moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David E. Rutledge".

David E. Rutledge
State Representative

RICK SOLLARS
Mayor

CYNTHIA A. BOWER
City Clerk

EDWARD L. BOURASSA
Treasurer

City of Taylor

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CITY COUNCIL

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TIMOTHY WOOLLEY

05-27-14 P11:14 IV

May 20, 2014

Senator John Pappageorge
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Senator Pappageorge,

The City of Taylor urges you to oppose HB 5379 and SB 0832 which would abolish local funding under Act 88 for agricultural and economic development in Michigan counties.

We have a wealth of manufacturing and logistics assets in Southeast Michigan. Marketing these advantages is the cornerstone of the Detroit Region Aerotropolis business attraction efforts. Washtenaw County's funding is leveraged with other regional partners, the Business Leaders for Michigan, DTE and the Wayne County Airport Authority to market our assets to national and international conferences. These efforts have resulted in \$660M worth of new real and personal property investment, the creation of 974 new jobs and retention of over 800 jobs in 2013 alone!

Increasing foreign investment and increasing the trade in Michigan products would not be possible without strong support from Washtenaw County and our regional partners. We therefore urge you to oppose these bills to permit local governments such as Washtenaw County to continue to promote our agricultural and industrial advantages and attract new investment to our region.

Sincerely,



Mayor Rick Sollars
City of Taylor

June 1, 2014

The Honorable
Kevin Daley
Agriculture Committee Chair
State Representative
82nd house District

Please accept this letter in support of the continued use of Public Act 88 of 1913 (MCLA 46.161) by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners to promote economic activity in the county, through several activities including advertising agricultural and industrial advantages, exhibiting products and industries, encouraging immigration and increased trade and advertising for tourists.

The Washtenaw Farm Council and the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show and Washtenaw County 4-H Programs annually receives Public Act 88 funds. These funds support activities that are important to the families in my community and county.

Although my husband (a Wisconsin native) was actively involved in 4H programs during his childhood, I only recently became involved with 4H programs through my own children's involvement. My somewhat narrow perception of 4H programming was blown away on our first visit to the Chelsea Go-Getters 4H group. This relatively young/new group was started in our community only a few years ago and has quickly become one of our families' favorite activities for many reasons.

- The fact that the group is co-ed and multi-age is a definite bonus for our family. We are able to prioritize these activities because they involve and support our whole family.
- 4 H programming helps reinforce our family's commitment to community service and civic engagement. Our kids are continually investigating ways and acting on opportunities to give back to the community.
- The youth led meetings and process is a unique opportunity for younger children. My 10 year old son's experience as part of the decision-making body has been a great step in his leadership development and a model to which his 8 year old younger sister is already aspiring. This is probably his (and our) favorite part of the entire program. The children are encouraged with a sense of ownership and responsibility that is not very likely to occur with other activities at this point in their lives. They are learning problem solving and planning skills that will benefit them their entire lives no matter where their paths lead them.

In short, 4H programming is a powerful tool for our youth, as well as our families and our communities. We consider the work the 4H staff do as extremely important and are in support of continued funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Jane Pacheco
Chelsea Go-Getters 4H Club Parent Volunteer
Cc: Washtenaw County 4-H Office

*The Honorable
Kevin Daley
Agriculture Committee Chair
State Representative
82nd house District*

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The Washtenaw Farm Council and the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show and Washtenaw County 4-H Programs annually receives Public Act 88 funds. These funds support activities that are important to the families in my community and county.

As a 4-H ambassador, not only have I had many opportunities to see how 4-H touches the lives of many others, but I also experienced great growth within myself. I am more willing to step out of my comfort zone and to try new things now than I ever have been before. I relate this new confidence to the examples of wonderful leadership and the experiences/opportunities provided to me through the Ambassador program.

4-H also holds particular significance for me because of my experiences in my livestock clubs. I am part of two clubs, and thoroughly enjoy being involved in both of them. They provide a wonderful way to be active and involved in the community, which is not easy to find elsewhere. For example, in one of my clubs, we bring our llamas to a retirement home every year. The people there are absolutely thrilled to see us and the llamas, and it brings great joy to all parties involved. These experiences would not be possible without 4-H, and 4-H would not be possible without the necessary funding.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,

Keaton Aldrich
4H Ambassador
Rogers Corners Herdsmen and Double L Llama Club

Cc: Washtenaw County 4-H Office

The Honorable Gretchen Driskell
State Representative
52nd house District

Please accept this letter in support of the continued use of Public Act 88 of 1913 (MCLA 46.161) by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners to promote economic activity in the county, through several activities including advertising agricultural and industrial advantages, exhibiting products and industries, encouraging immigration and increased trade and advertising for tourists.

The Washtenaw Farm Council and the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show annually receives \$15,000 of Public Act 88 funds. These funds support activities that are important to the families in my community and county.

Participation in the Washtenaw County Youth Show each year has strongly influenced my life. Due to my interactions with the animals, I am on the path to becoming a large animal veterinarian in the future. The animal handling skills that I have developed through participation in the fair have benefited me at my job in an emergency veterinary clinic, where I have advised more experienced employees on techniques for handling exotic animals and farm animals.

It is important to me that youth in the future will have the opportunities that were presented to me to expand their horizons and encounter unique situations that will better prepare them for lives in the professional world.

Kennedy Aldrich

Cc: Washtenaw County 4-H Office

May 27, 2014

Dear State Representative Shirkey,

Please accept this letter in support of the continued use of Public Act 88 of 1913 (MCLA 46.161) by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners to promote economic activity in the county, through several activities including advertising agricultural and industrial advantages, exhibiting products and industries, encouraging immigration and increased trade and advertising for tourists.

The Washtenaw Farm Council and the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show annually receives \$15,000 of Public Act 88 funds. These funds support activities that are important to the families in my community and county.

Some different ways that the Washtenaw county 4-H youth show has given me long term learning experiences is that the youth show fair is a place where 4-H participants can share what they have learned over the year with each other and the general public. Youth like me can show our skills in the kitchen, work shop, sewing table, and many other places.

While this can also be done at non-all-youth fairs also it is not the same. Exhibiting what you have done as a youth at fairs like the Ingham county fair and the Chelsea fair or even the Saline fair it is not the same as showing at the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show, in comparison this fair is for the youth, the parents stand back and watch or even marvel at what their children are capable of on their own.

For me personally this fair has given me a place where I can share what I know with other 4-H member's on many different subjects from rabbits to llama's, and from sheep to cooking. Throughout the year, in preparation to for this event, 4-H members learn responsibility, time management, and how to be prepared ahead of time, not just for this event, but for many other things like job interviews, also youth learn how to work on a schedule. Our youth fair has also lead me to be a great showman and ready and able to share what I know with new and up-and-coming exhibitors.

If it were not for our 4-H Youth Show I would not have learned about many different state programs offered and due to this I would not be able to write this letter today. Where the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show is concerned it is true to be said by teens over the course of the week, 'Because of 4-H, I can...!'

Sincerely,

Samantha Bellairs
4-H Member
Washtenaw County